



Thajudeen pointing to one of his works on ceramic tiles entitled 'wedding procession.'

# Artist calls for colony to woo tourists

A BUDDING local artist feels that an artists' colony should be set up so that there will be better co-operation among them and greater encouragement from the authorities.

Syed Thajudeen of Penang believes artists need more encouragement and facilities for them to carry on their work as professionals, and an artists' colony would also attract tourists.

He says Malaysians were now only beginning to show more interest in art and it may be a long time before local art lovers make it possible for artists to survive on earnings from their work.

Syed Thajudeen, 32, who was trained in the University of Madurai and the Government College of Arts and Craft in Madras for six years, holds a diploma in painting and a post-diploma in interior decoration.

He said in Madras the Government encouraged artists to live together in a village or colony where they could work on their own and their works were sold to tourists.

**KUALA LUMPUR, Monday**

who is a part-time lecturer in art and design at the Mara Institute of Technology in Shah Alam.

He also gets his inspiration from poetry and literary works and he has completed his first 'masterpiece' — an episode from the Ramayana painted in oil in nine panels of canvas, which are arranged in sequence of the story.

## BACKGROUND

Thajudeen took two years to complete the mural which has a total length of 27 feet and costs \$10,000.

Among the 20 exhibits at the Samat Art Gallery are a number of paintings with Malaysian background.

## INSPIRATION

Syed Thajudeen who returned from his studies last year is holding a solo exhibition of his work at the Samat Art Gallery here for three weeks.

His paintings are mostly oils as his theme is much influenced by the paintings and murals found in the Ajanta and Ellora caves and temples in India.

"Natural beauty, and human emotions of love and romance are usually what I try to portray," said Syed Thajudeen.

Thajudeen who has been an artist since he was a schoolboy, held exhibitions, organised by the Malaysian High Commission office in Madras, and took part in the Malaysian National open exhibition here this year and had a solo exhibition in the Penang Art Gallery last year.

He plans to paint a mural of the history of the Malacca Sultanate when he gets sufficient material and background of the Sultanate period from history books and museums here.



## KALEIDOSCOPE Kuala Lumpur

**Show in the Capital:**  
Syed Thajudeen

Born in 1943 in India and educated in Penang, Syed Thajudeen returned to India in 1966 where he joined the University of Madurai for per-university studies in Humanities. Later he studied at the Government College of Arts and Crafts in Madras and completed his diploma in painting (first class). He spent a further year in Madras in 1973 doing a post diploma in interior decoration (MURAL). On his return to Malaysia he was appointed part-time lecturer at the School of Arts and Design, Mara Institute of Technology, his current position.

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.** Syed

Tajuddin, does oil painting on mythological and oriental themes. He studied art in India for six years and is now free-lancing.

"I consider it as a noble profession and have no regrets over my choice of career," he added.

He was among the artists who exhibited their works at the "Focus on Youthful Talents" exhibition at the National Art Gallery here.

The Malay Mail, Saturday, April 9, 1977